

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 INT-05 GSA-01

AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 /115 W

----- 040379

R 191100Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8231

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BLANTYRE 1139

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, ETRD, MI, MZ, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

REF: A) LUSAKA 1755 B) LOURENCO MARQUES 924 C) LOURENCO MARQUES 872

1. PER REF A, FIGURES AVAILABLE FROM FORWARDING AGENTS IN  
BLANTYRE CONFIRM BEIRA BACKLOG FOR ZAMBIA IN RANGE 43,000  
TONS, INCLUDING 15,000 FERTILIZER 10,000 TIMBER AND 8500  
SULPHUR. SIMILAR TONNAGE BACKLOGGED AT BEIRA FOR MALAWI  
INCLUDING 28,000 TONS OF FERTILIZER. SHIPPERS ANTICIPATE  
FERTILIZER FOR MALAWI WILL BE CLEARED AT RATE OF 15 CARS OR  
ABOUT 600 TONS A DAY HOPEFULLY IN TIME FOR PLANTING SEASON.

2. BEIRA PORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE FOR MOVING BEIRA  
BACKLOG FOR ZAMBIA FROM AUGUST THROUGH OCTOBER AS FOLLOWS IN  
NUMBER AND THOUSANDS OF TONS:

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VEHICLES FERTILIZER TIMBER GEN CARGO

AUGUST	300	11	10	7
SEPTEMBER	300	5	-	7
OCTOBER	400	-	-	6.5

BUT COMMITTEE REVISED TOTAL TONNAGE FIGURES IN AND OUT OF BEIRA DOWN FROM 235,000 TONS IN AUGUST TO 165,000 FOR SEPTEMBER DUE TO DAMAGE TO MINERAL LOADING APPLIANCE AND OTHER PROBLEMS. PORT OFFICIALS ARE SAID TO BE RESISTING TRANSFER OF ONE OF TWO DREDGES TO LOURENCO MARQUES BECAUSE OF REF B PROBLEMS THERE.

3. INFORMATION FROM CONFERENCE LINES RECORDS INDICATED BEIRA SHIP DAYS IDLE FROM JANUARY-JULY REACHED 1067 AS CONTRASTED WITH BETWEEN 250 AND 360 FOR SAME PERIOD OVER LAST FOUR YEARS. RECENT MALAWI VISITOR TO BEIRA STATES, HOWEVER, THAT TWO OF SIX NEW HARBOR PILOTS HAVE ALREADY QUALIFIED AND WHEN OTHERS COMPLETE TRAINING WEEKEND PILOTAGE IS PLANNED.

4. NO CURRENT TONNAGE AVAILABLE FOR NACALA BUT MALAWI ADMARC RAILING IN 10,000 TONS FERTILIZER AND WILL RAIL OUT OVER 4500 TONS GROUNDNUTS IN A MONTH SEPT THROUGH NOV. BERTHING DELAYS ARE VIRTUALLY NIL AND ACCORDING TO RECENT VISITOR FORT IMPROVEMENTS ARE CONTINUING INCLUDING INSTALLATION 20 NEW CRANES IN SEPTEMBER (ONE 20 TON. ONE 10 TON. 18 FIVE TON) AND REPAIR OF LIGHTING OF NEW WHARF TO ALLOW RESUMPTION NIGHT WORK. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MALAWI STILL BAD, HOWEVER; TELEPHONES OPERATIVE TO NACALA ONLY TWICE A WEEK, CABLES DELIVERED IN MINIMUM SEVEN DAYS AND BECAUSE OF NEW IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES IN MOZAMBIQUE, WEEKLY CHARTER FLIGHTS SUSPENDED.

5. PER REF A, MALAWIAN SOURCES INDICATE PROBLEMS IN FORWARDING ZAMBIA CARGO FROM MALAWI RAILHEADS DUE TO LACK OF ZAMBIA AND OTHER ROAD VEHICLES. PER REF C, BEIRA-KATETE ROUTE THROUGH MOATIZE IS NOT EXPECTED BY MALAWI TO BE SURFACED UNTIL MID-76 AND WILL PRESENT PROBLEMS IN NOVEMBER WITH BEGINNING OF RAINY SEASON. MALAWI HAS RULED OUT TRANSPORT OF FERTILIZER TO MALAWI THROUGH MOATIZE DUE TO ROAD TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES.

6. OBVIOUS THAT PORT CONGESTION AND TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RANK AS PRIMARY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FOR CENTRAL AFRICA AS A WHOLE.  
STEVENSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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